

Record of Critical Events - 4:00 am - 8:00 am.

At 3:55 am on Tuesday, February 11, Donald McPhie, Director of Food Services, who had been sleeping in his office because of the emergency, reported that rioters had broken into the cafeteria area on the seventh floor of the Hall Building, blocking the stairs and escalators, and using fire hoses to flood the escalator areas and the stair wells.

The Dean of Students, Magnus Flynn, who was also on duty in the building, immediately went upstairs and checked that water was pouring down the escalators. He also noticed that furniture from the cafeteria had been thrown down the stair well to block it.

About this time Donald McPhie saw students breaking into frigidaires in the cafeteria with fire axes they had taken from the emergency protection units, and also destroying other furnishings of the cafeteria.

Shortly after 4:00 am some rioters came down to the main floor, surrounded the security guard and cut the emergency telephone. It seemed clear that the occupying students from the seventh and ninth floors intended to seize total control of the building and, after consultation, the University officials who had been alerted decided to call in the Montreal police.

By 6:00 am the police had entered into and moved through the building, and all rioters had withdrawn to the general area of the Computer Centre.

Shortly afterwards the police went into the Computer Centre and attempted to move out the occupiers. Apparently then two of the police were injured by the people there, and the police withdrew, stating that they were not at present equipped for the action required.

Reports of damage to the Computer Centre now came in, and the occupiers began to throw furniture, typewriters and other equipment out of the ninth floor windows onto MacKay Street.

The police then made a further study of the situation and decided they would have to call in a special squad to deal with the rioters. Initially, this squad was expected to arrive at 9:00 am. Subsequent delays were occasioned by the need for police and University officials to review the situation jointly, and for various legal arrangements to be made.

At about 7:20 am the University officials on the spot received through a third party a message from occupiers demanding that the police be withdrawn. Otherwise they would wreck the computer. The answer given was that the police were now responsible for operations in the building, and police officers had been injured. It was not possible therefore for the University to negotiate further. This position was later affirmed to other volunteer intermediaries.